



Hebburn Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1949.

HEBBURN-ON-TYNE :

Printed by SMITH BROS. (Hebburn & Jarrow), Ltd.,
Lyon Street.

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SYNOPSIS.

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HEBBURN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1949 – 1950.

Chairman.

Mr. C. Ellison, J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Mrs. A. Davies.

MEMBERS.

West Ward.

Mrs. S. McIntyre.

Mrs. M. Hepburn.

Mr. P. English.

East Ward.

Mr. W. Bradley.

Mr. J. Spelman.

Mr. W. Brown.

Central Ward.

Mr. J. H. Edmunds.

Co. Coun. C. Ellison.

Mr. R. Heard.

Victoria Ward.

Mr. W. M. Jackson.

Mr. G. Canham.

Mr. J. G. Kerr.

North Ward.

Mr. N. Frankland.

Mr. G. Watson.

Mrs. A. Davies.

South Ward.

Mr. H. Oake.

Co. Coun. J. M. Black,
J.P.

Miss B. F. Taylor.

Monkton Ward.

Mr. E. French.

Mr. J. Nicholson.

Mr. W. McConway.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

ARGYLE STREET,

HEBBURN,

JUNE, 1950.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Hebburn Urban
District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MESDAMES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1949, on the Health and sanitary condition of the district.

The Birth Rate was higher than 1948, the figures being 21.08 and 26.0 per 1,000 estimated resident population respectively.

The death rate was 10.6 per 1,000 in 1949 against 10.8 per 1,000 in the previous year.

The infantile mortality rate this year 34.9 per 1,000 live births was a little higher than in 1948 when the figure was 32.4

There were 51 notifications of respiratory tuberculosis and 4 notifications of non-respiratory tuberculosis this year, compared with 52 and 9 respectively last year.

The number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis was 17 compared with 20 in 1948, and 1 death occurred from the non-respiratory type of the disease as against 5 in the previous year.

The incidence of diphtheria during the year was less than in 1948, namely, 1.

The number of scarlet fever cases was less than in 1948, 29 as against 33.

I would like to take this opportunity of recording my grateful appreciation for the assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Council, and also from the Staff of the Health and Cleansing Departments.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. D. MILLAR,

M.B., B.S., B.Hy. (Durh.), D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health and Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital—William D. Millar, M.B., B.S., B.Hy. (Durham), D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector—W. S. Bruce, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—P. Milne, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Cleansing Superintendent—Thomas Taggart.

Chief Clerk to the Health Department—David A. McGuinness.

Shorthand-Typist to Health Department—Miss E. Bradley.

Shorthand-Typist to Cleansing Department—Miss M. Wallace.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

SECTION A.

Statistics of the Area.

Area of District—1,676.415 acres.

Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1949 according to rate books)—6,577.

Rateable Value (December)—£103,919.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£368.

Estimated resident population—23,050.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total—256.

(b) As part of Municipal Housing Scheme—256.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including Nos. given separately under (b)—256.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—

(i) By the Local Authority—24.

(ii) By other bodies or persons—232.

Number of houses owned by Local Authority—1,399.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	468	237	231
Illegitimate	18	11	7

Birth Rate per 1,000
of the estimated resi-
dent population 21.08.

Still Births—

Legitimate	12	6	6
Illegitimate	1	1	—

Rate per 1,000 total
(live and still) births,
26.0.

Deaths	246	140	106
--------------	-----	-----	-----

Death rate per 1,000
of the estimated resi-
dent population 10.6.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List)--

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	...
No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	...
	—	—
	Nil.	...
	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	34.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	36.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	36
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	3

VITAL STATISTICS.**Births.**

The Birth Rate in 1949 was 21.08. The total number of births was 468 of which 237 were males and 231 females.

The birth-rate of Hebburn compared with the rest of the Country generally was as follows :—

England and Wales	16.7
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns.....	18.7
148 Smaller Towns	18.0
London Administrative County	18.5
Hebburn Urban District	21.08

Still Births (Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population).

The number of still births in the district was 13 and the rate compared with the Country generally was as follows :—

England and Wales	0.39
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	0.47
148 Smaller Towns.....	0.40
London Administrative County	0.37
Hebburn Urban District	0.56

Deaths.

The Death rate in 1949 was 10.6 compared with 10.8 in 1948. The following figures show the comparison with the rest of the country :—

England and Wales	11.7
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	12.5
148 Smaller Towns	11.6
London Administrative County	12.2
Hebburn Urban District	10.6

The following table shews the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures) 1949:—

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Males.	Females.
All Causes.			155	93
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	...	...	...
2	Cerebro-spinal fever ...	...	...	...
3	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...
4	Whooping-Cough ...	...	...	...
5	Diphtheria ..	...	...	1
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	9	8
7	Other forms of tuberculosis ...	...	...	1
8	Syphilitic Disease ...	...	1	...
9	Influenza ...	...	4	3
10	Measles ...	...	...	...
11	Acute Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ...	...	...	...
12	Acute Inf. Encephalitis ...	...	...	...
13	Cancer of buccal cavity and oeso- phagus (male): uterus (female)...	...	2	3
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	5	3
15	Cancer of breast ...	...	...	...
16	Cancer of all other sites ...	...	12	11
17	Diabetes ...	...	...	1
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	...	16	13
19	Heart disease ...	...	33	27
20	Other diseases circulatory system	...	7	2
21	Bronchitis ...	...	12	7
22	Pneumonia ...	...	7	5
23	Other respiratory diseases ...	...	3	1
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	...	...	1
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	...	2	1
26	Appendicitis ...	...	...	...
27	Other digestive diseases ...	...	...	1
28	Nephritis ...	...	...	2
29	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...
30	Other maternal causes ...	...	...	...
31	Premature birth ...	...	1	...
32	Congenital malformations, birth injury (inf. dis.) ...	...	8	1
33	Suicide ...	...	2	3
34	Road traffic accidents ...	...	3	...
35	Other violent causes ...	...	4	1
36	All other causes ...	...	9	10

SECTION B.

CLINIC.	SITUATION.	SESSIONS.	PROVIDED BY.
Maternity & Child Welfare	Argyle Street, Hebburn.	Children under Five—Tuesdays, a.m. Ante-Natal—Tuesday, p.m. Children under Five—Tuesdays, p.m.	Durham County Council.
"	"		"
"	"		"
"	"	Ante and Post-Natal—Wednesdays, a.m. to p.m.	"
"	"		"
"	"	Children under Five—Fridays, a.m. Ante-Natal—Fridays, p.m. Children under Five—Fridays, p.m.	"
"	"		"
"	"		"
School Medical Service.	"	School Children—Mondays, a.m. to p.m.	"
"	"	School Children—Thursdays, a.m. to p.m.	"
Tuberculosis Dispensary.	Homer Villa, St. John's Terrace, Jarrow.	Women's & Girls—Mondays, a.m. to p.m. Men & Boys—Wednesdays, a.m. to p.m.	"
"	"		"
Venereal Diseases.	General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle, 4.	Male & Female—Mondays to Fridays,— 10 a.m. to 12 noon. 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays— 11 a.m. to 12 noon. 4-30 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.	"
"	"		"

SECTION C.**Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.****Report of Cleansing Superintendent.**

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sir,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1949.

Regular inspections of the district have been made and the Public Cleansing Services have been maintained to satisfaction.

No serious complaints or difficulties have arisen during the year and all effort has been made to upkeep an efficient standard of cleanliness in the district.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS TAGGART,

Cleansing Superintendent.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

There were 6,806 houses and premises from which refuse was collected.

House refuse and salvage is collected once per week and only two refuse collection vehicles are employed on this work. These vehicles are 3-tons Dennis Refuse Collectors, each with body capacity of 10 cubic yards; one of them was purchased in May of this year, and the other was purchased in 1946.

Each vehicle is manned by 4 loaders, and a trailer is attached to each vehicle for the purpose of collecting salvage with the house refuse.

Trade Refuse is collected from shops, etc., on an average of three collections per week.

A 3-tons Leyland Refuse Collector with body capacity of 7 cubic yards, manned by one loader, is employed part-time on Trade Refuse Collection work and part-time on Scavenging work.

Although there has been a gradual increase in the number of houses and premises in the district, refuse collection work has progressed with considerable satisfaction and without any serious difficulties or complaints arising during the year.

The quantity of salvage collected and the income therefrom shewn in the appended summary.

The system of refuse disposal adopted by this Authority is Controlled Tipping, and the Ministry of Health precautions regarding this method have been observed. The tipping ground is the property of Messrs. A. Reyrolle and Co. Ltd., and is situated at the west boundary of the Company's works. The site is suitably distant from the residential area, and no complaints from the public have arisen during the year as the result of tipping operations on this site.

By the kind permission of Messrs. A. Reyrolle and Co. Ltd., we are allowed to use this site as a refuse disposal tip free of cost.

Street Sweeping.

There are 30.35 miles of streets in the district, of which 1.82 are swept daily, 1.7 miles three times weekly, 2.63 miles twice weekly, and 24.2 miles once weekly.

The district is divided into nine cleansing areas, and street sweepings are deposited at suitable depots or tips in each area. In built up areas where there are no convenient tips, sweepings are collected daily from each depot.

Gully Cleansing.

All gullies are mechanically cleansed by a Dennis Mechanical Gully Emptier with tank capacity of 750 gallons (350 gallons sludge compartment and 400 clean water compartment). Street Washing and Sewer Flushing is also done by this machine.

There are 2,370 gullies in the district which are cleansed at least, at the rate of twelve cleansings per annum. Many of the back street gullies are cleansed at the rate of twenty cleansings per annum, particularly in densely populated areas.

During the year the Scavenging Service on a whole was maintained to satisfaction and without any serious difficulties being experienced.

Annual Return of Salvage.

	Tons. Cwts. Qrs.				£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	101	14	1	...	610	10	7
Light Scrap Metal	1	11	2	...	2	7	3
Kitchen Waste	12	1	—	...	26	9	1
Textiles	—	9	1	...	6	13	0
Bottles, Jars, etc.	2	—	3	...	11	0	9
	<hr/>				<hr/>		
Totals ...	117	16	3	...	£657	0	8
	<hr/>				<hr/>		

Quantity of Refuse Collected during the Year.

	Motor Loads.
House Refuse	2,933
Trade Refuse	262
Scavenging (gully sludge, sweepings, etc.)	221

Collection and Disposal of Refuse during the Year Ending 31st December, 1949.

House and Trade Refuse (excluding salvage)	6,893 tons.
Street Sweepings and Gully Sludge	482 tons.
	<hr/>
Total Refuse disposed of at the tip	7,375 tons.
Total salvage collected and disposed of	117 tons.
	<hr/>
Total ...	7,492 tons.
	<hr/> <hr/>

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Report of Mr. W. S. Bruce, Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

(1) Nuisances and Defects.

The following is a summary of nuisances and defects dealt with:—

Buildings.

Roofs and spouting overhauled and repaired	206
Floors and skirtings repaired and renewed	47
Internal walls and ceilings repaired and renewed	95
External walls repaired and pointed	43
Chimneys, fireplaces, ranges, and flues repaired and renewed	64
Doors, stairs, windows, and cords repaired and renewed	108
Scullery sinks and benches repaired and renewed	34
Foodstores repaired and provided	20
Dampness of walls remedied	58

Sanitary Accommodation and Drainage.

Waterclosets and choked drains cleared	38
Watercloset basins and fittings repaired and renewed ...	52
Gullies and gratings renewed	8
Waste pipes repaired and renewed	17

Washing Accommodation.

Washing accommodation provided	1
Set pots, firebars, etc., repaired and renewed	20

Yards and Outbuildings.

Yard paving repaired	11
Yard walls and doors repaired and renewed	52
Outbuildings repaired, renewed, and rebuilt	121

Other Nuisances.

Water supply pipes and fittings repaired and renewed ...	8
Dushbins renewed	78
Smoke nuisances abated	1
Verminous premises disinfested	1
Dirty premises cleansed	2
Accummulations of refuse removed	6
Nuisances from keeping of animals abated	1
Miscellaneous nuisances abated.....	5

Total ... 1,097

Number of Informal notices served 414

Number of Statutory notices served 137

The majority of these repairs were of an urgent or temporary nature, as many of the properties concerned are in poor structural condition, with shared facilities and few amenities, and have in most cases, outlived their usefulness as dwellings.

Any attempt at large-scale improvements or modernisation is out of the question and one must again pause to reflect how much longer they can be maintained as dwelling-houses by palliative measures.

(2) Common Lodging House.

The Common Lodging House situated in Prince Consort Road, was closed during the year, and subsequently demolished by the Owner.

There are now no such premises registered in Hebburn.

(3) Working Men's Hostel.

This building which is owned by a private firm, comprises extensive living accommodation, kitchens, dining room, laundry, and licensed bar. The majority of the residents are old age pensioners, but native ships' crews are also accommodated from time to time, the latter in separate quarters.

Frequent inspections were made, and the premises found to be satisfactorily maintained.

(4) Public Buildings.

All cinemas, theatres, and public buildings were inspected during the year, and any defects relating to sanitary accommodation, ventilation, or cleanliness were immediately brought to the attention of the owners.

(5) Smoke Abatement.

One informal notice was served in respect of a smoke nuisance at a local factory, and in several instances the management's attention was drawn to excessive emissions from factory chimneys.

In all cases, steps were taken to reduce and minimise smoke production.

The domestic chimney, however, is still the chief offender, and air pollution will continue, with its deleterious effects on health and amenity, until improved grates, and smokeless fuels are more widely adopted.

(6) Verminous Dwellings.

Action taken for the eradication of bed-bugs.

	Council Houses.	Other Houses.
Number of houses infested ...	1	5

As a precautionary measure, 8 Council houses which became vacant were sprayed prior to occupation by the ingoing tenant.

No general disinfestation scheme for Council houses and removals to Council houses is in force. Complaints of bug infestation are investigated and treatment carried out. D.D.T. is used for this purpose.

A number of Council houses were also treated for infestations of black beetles.

(7) Infectious Diseases.

Visits were made to cases of infectious diseases notified to the Medical Officer of Health, and housing conditions, contacts, etc., investigated. All cases of suspected food poisoning were also visited.

61 houses were disinfected after infectious diseases.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, is administered by Durham County Council.

Two maintenance treatments of sewers, and the refuse tip, and Council yard were made during the year, with satisfactory results.

All complaints of rodent infestation in private property were investigated and forwarded to Durham County Council.

FACTORIES ACT.**(1) Inspections.**

The following inspections of factories were made during the year :—

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	15	17	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	61	65	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	76	82	2	—

Action taken in respect of defects found in the course of inspection :—

Number of cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred		Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) insufficient	1	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	2	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	6	4	—	3	—

Three large industrial firms completed the installation of modern sanitary accommodation during the year.

(2) Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Five revised certificates were issued under the provisions of Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

SHOPS ACTS.

84 visits were paid to shops during the year and 8 written notices were served in respect of infringements of the Shops Acts, all of which were remedied or receiving attention.

SECTION D.

Housing.

NEW HOUSES.

238 houses were built with State Assistance and occupied during the year.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts 416
- (b) Number of inspections for the purpose 1,467
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health so as to be unfit for human habitation 1

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers 240

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 11 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Numbers of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 1
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners 1
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	136
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owner	126
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1*
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

* This Closing Order was in respect of 18, John Street.

During the year 3 families were rehoused from property in the Carr Street area, which is under a Closing Order made in 1948. Two of the houses were subsequently demolished by the owner.

RE-HOUSING.

The work of allocation of all Council houses continued to be carried out by your Sanitary Inspector through the Housing Committee, and visits of investigation and inspection entailed an increasing amount of work during the year, in addition to office interviews and administration.

246 families were re-housed in Council and North Eastern Housing Association houses, all allocations being made in accordance with the Council's points scheme.

Tenants of pre-war Council houses and prefabricated bungalows were given the opportunity of transferring to new houses, in order to release their houses for families due for re-housing, but who could not accept newly built accommodation.

The following is a summary of the number of housing applications received and dealt with up to the end of the year:—

	Householders.	Non-Householders.	Total
Rehoused in new Council houses	96	90	186
Rehoused in prefabricated bungalows	3	19	22
Rehoused in old Council & N.E. H.A. houses	20	18	38
Removed from Housing List (Left district, etc.)	11	27	38
Total applicants rehoused or left district, etc.	130	154	284
Number of applicants remaining on List at 31-12-49	709	275	984
Total applicants on original Housing List at 30-10-48	839	429	1268
Number of applications received since 30-10-48 and not included above	265	207	472

Whilst these figures indicate the desire for new houses, they do not show the actual need for better accommodation. For instance some 265 householders have, since October, 1948, applied for a Council house for the first time, and although a proportion of these applicants are not living under overcrowded conditions, they nevertheless wish to enjoy the amenities provided in modern Council houses which are lacking in their own.

In addition to the foregoing, there were at the end of the year, 118 applications for old persons cottages, of which 15 were from Council tenants. The provision of further new cottages for old persons would no doubt make a useful contribution to the relief of overcrowding, since larger houses would be released for more suitable families.

Wherever possible the Council endeavour to relieve overcrowding in their own property by re-adjustment of tenancies.

SECTION E.**Inspection and Supervision of Food.****MILK AND DAIRIES.****(1) The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.**

These Regulations came into operation on the 1st October, 1949. The principal change was the transfer of registrations of dairy farms to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, who is responsible for the execution and enforcement of the Regulations on such premises. The Local Authority retains responsibility for all other provisions which apply outside dairy farms.

(2) The Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised & Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949.

These Regulations came into operation on the 1st October, 1949. The following licences were issued under the Regulations to retailers of milk in the Urban District :—

	Principal Licences.	Supplementary Licences.
Tuberculin Tested Milk	1	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	3	1
Pasteurised Milk	4	1
Sterilised Milk	52	—
	<hr/> 60	<hr/> 2

(3) Purity of Milk.

8 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination during the year, with the following results :—

Grade of Milk.	B Tubercle Test.		Methylene Blue Test.		Phosphatase Test.		Total Samples taken.
	Absent.	Present.	Satisf.	Unsatisf.	Satisf.	Unsatisf.	
Non-designated	I	—	I	—	—	—	I
Pasturised	—	—	5	—	4	I	5
Tuberculin Tested (Past)	—	—	I	—	I	—	I
Tuberculin Tested.	I	—	I	—	—	—	I

In the case of the unsatisfactory sample from a source outside the district, the local authority in whose area the milk was pasteurised was notified of the result.

ICE CREAM.

The consumption of this food continues to increase, and during the year 12 premises were registered for retail sale, 11 of which were in respect of pre-wrapped ice-cream only. There are now 2 premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream, and 21 for retail sale only. All of these premises were provided with running hot water.

Legal proceedings were taken against an ice-cream vendor for infringements of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, and the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, &c.) Regulations, 1947, relating to the sale of ice-cream from a cart not displaying the name and address of the dealer and failure to protect the ice-cream from dirt, dust, or other contamination during its distribution, and no provision made for cleansing utensils, etc., after use.

The owner of the cart and the person selling the ice-cream were both fined 10/- on each of two counts.

Constant supervision was exercised over premises and a number of verbal and written warnings given where necessary. All vehicles selling ice-cream were inspected for general cleanliness and to ascertain if the Council's requirements were being carried out, namely; the provision of hot water, clean towels, sterilising facilities, and protection of the ice-cream.

11 Samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for Laboratory examination; of these, 6 were classified Grade 1, 2 were Grade 2, and 3 were Grade 3. All these samples were made by the "hot-mix process."

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All slaughtering is centralised at Newcastle under Government control. Post mortem inspections of 26 pigs belonging to local pig-keepers were made, and all carcasses and organs found free from disease. Licences to slaughter were granted by the Ministry of Food.

In connection with the transport of meat a local carrier has carried out improvements to his vehicle by providing an aluminium-lined body fitted with suitable ventilation. Whilst this is a step in the right direction, the use of a properly insulated van fitted with hanging rails, and hooks, is essential for ensuring the hygienic handling and transport of carcase meat.

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES AND SHOPS.

(1) Inspections.

All premises in which food is prepared and sold continued to receive close attention, and towards the end of the year a comprehensive survey of all such premises was commenced.

46 retail food shops provided suitable washing facilities by the installation of constant hot water supply, and wash-hand basin, and further shops are awaiting installation. Every opportunity is taken of stressing to employees the importance of washing hands, and personal cleanliness where food handling is involved.

(2) Bye-laws.

The Council have applied for confirmation of new Model Bye-laws, Series 1, relating to handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air, made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

(3) Clean Food Campaign.

In an effort to foster and encourage cleanly methods of food handling and preparation, a meeting of food traders and employees was convened in December. It was decided to form, under the auspices of the Council, a voluntary Food Traders Guild, and a Code of Practice for food trades was drawn up and adopted.

It was intended to issue a certificate suitable for display on premises where facilities and methods conform to the Code.

The Scheme was well received by traders and subsequent meetings well attended. In order to maintain interest it is hoped to publicise the effort through the medium of various womens' organisations, film shows, and talks on the subject.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following foodstuffs which were found unfit for human consumption were dealt with during the year. A proportion of the food was utilized for the manufacture of animal feeding stuffs and fertilizers, and the remainder destroyed :—

Meat.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Number.
Beef (Home Killed)	3	3	7	
Beef (Imported)		1	14	
Offals (Imported)		2	27	

Provisions.

All Bran				10 pkts.
Breakfast Oats				12 pkts.
Butter	2	—	—	
Figs			$6\frac{3}{4}$	
Ham			$3\frac{1}{2}$	
Rice			24	
Salt				2 pkts.
Soya Flour			$10\frac{3}{4}$	
Strawberries			5	
Spaghetti			24	

Canned and Bottled Foods.

Dried Egg				1 pkt.
Fish and Fish Products			$12\frac{1}{4}$	
Fruit		2	$2\frac{1}{2}$	
Jam and Marmalade			10	
Meat and Meat products		1	$8\frac{3}{4}$	
Milk				149 tins.
Pickles, sauces, etc.				9 bottles.
Soups			3	
Vegetables		4	$3\frac{1}{2}$	

Total	9	2	12
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FOOD ANALYSIS.

Article.	Number analysed		
	Formal.	Informal.	Total.
Liquid Paraffin	1	—	1
Chemical Food	1	—	1
Olive Oil	1	—	1
Sugar Cake Flour	—	1	1
Zinc and Castor Oil	—	1	1
Icing Sugar	1	—	1
Bismuth Digestive Tablets	1	—	1
Tea	2	—	2
Sugar	2	—	2
Potato Crisps	—	1	1
Garden Peas	—	1	1
Scotch Broth	—	1	1
Beef Suet	1	—	1
Cooking Fat (Comp)	1	—	1
Full Cream Sweetened Condensed Milk	—	1	1
Tomato Juice	—	1	1
Luncheon Meat	1	—	1
Preserved Sausage	1	—	1
Mexian Meat	—	1	1
Butter	1	—	1
Meat Soup	—	1	1
Sardines in Olive Oil	—	1	1
Milk	10	—	10
Total ...	24	10	34

None of the above samples were adulterated or gave rise to irregularity.

W. S. BRUCE., M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.

**Summary of Complaints, Visits and Inspections, during the
year, 1949.**

Complaints	340
Nuisances	72
Drainage	76
Council houses	321
Re-housing	802
Overcrowding	4
Housing disrepair	502
Housing, general, and scheduled areas	51
Rodent control	69
Food Shops and premises	191
Meat and Food inspection	47
Ice cream premises and samples	88
Factories, etc.	82
Milk and Dairies, samples, etc.	38
Smoke observations	12
Sanitary Conveniences	30
Infectious Diseases	142
Suspected Food poisoning	4
Verminous and dirty premises	45
Refuse Accommodation	84
Keeping of animals	32
Water supply	8
Shops Acts	84
Licensed premises	10
Hotels and hostel	11
Requisitioning of property	3
Special and miscellaneous visits	45
Re-visits	792
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Total ...	3,985
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SECTION F.**Prevention and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.****DIPHTHERIA.**

1 case was notified and admitted to Hospital as diphtheria. 1 case proved to be diphtheria. There was one death from this disease.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 1949, 310 children under 5 years of age, and 23 between the ages of 5 and 15 were immunised. 17 further children were given a third or reinforcing dose of serum.

It is estimated that the following percentage of children are immunised in the district:—

Under five :—70.0%. Between 5 and 15 :—80%.

During the year the percentage of immunised children who were notified as suffering from diphtheria, compared to the non-immunised was nil.

SCARLET FEVER.

29 cases were notified and admitted to Hospital as Scarlet Fever. They all proved to be Scarlet Fever. There were no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH.

175 cases were notified during the year as against 78 last year. There were no deaths from this disease.

MEASLES.

327 cases of Measles were notified during the year 1949, compared with 436 in 1948. 294 occurring in ages 1—5, and remaining 33 in 5—10 group. There were no deaths.

ERYSIPELAS.

9 cases were notified. 9 occurred between the ages of 35—65.

PNEUMONIA.

54 cases were notified the same number as last year. There were 12 deaths.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following information:—

The number of inhabitants of Hebburn attending the Clinics for Venereal Diseases during 1949 was 50 males and 15 females, as against 50 and 19 respectively in 1948.

Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality for 1949.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	—
1—5	I	I	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—15	2	7	—	I	—	—	—	I
16—25	—	8	—	I	—	I	—	—
26—35	6	10	—	—	2	3	—	—
36—45	3	2	—	—	3	I	—	—
46—55	5	I	I	—	2	I	—	—
56—65	4	—	—	—	2	I	—	—
66 and upwards	I	—	—	I	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	22	29	I	3	9	8	—	I

TUBERCULOSIS.

Respiratory Tuberculosis—51 notifications were received compared with 52 in 1948.

There were 17 deaths compared with 20 last year.

Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis—4 notifications were received compared with 9 in 1948.

There was 1 death compared with 5 last year.

Table showing the Age Incidence, Deaths, etc., from Notifiable Diseases during the year

Notifiable Diseases.	At all ages.	Number of cases notified (Corrected Figures.									Number Removed to Hospital.	Number of Deaths.
		0	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & over		
Small-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	29	—	4	8	14	2	1	—	—	—	29	—
Diphtheria ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Opthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	54	3	4	5	4	1	5	18	11	3	—	12
Erysipelas ...	9	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	6	1	—	—
Measles ...	327	22	103	101	100	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	175	18	63	44	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Typhoid & Paratyphoid ...	13	—	1	—	—	2	5	2	3	—	13	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox ...	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

